

**April Minutes**  
**INDIANA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTING**  
**PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION MEETING**

**APRIL 13, 2015 6PM**  
**WABASH TWP VFD**  
**2899 KLONDIKE RD**  
**W LAFAYETTE IN 47906**

A Meeting called to order at 6pm

**Present**

Greg Wyant  
Burke Jones  
Rob Lund  
James Greeson  
Joe Romero  
Tom Hanify  
John Smith  
Eric Gentry  
Eric Dreiman  
Chris Johnson

B. Rob Lund made a motion to approve February minutes as submitted. Chris Johnson seconded. Motion passed.

C Variance requests;

1. Jeff Glenn requested a variance for Instructor I based on his current Primary Instructor certification. Jeff holds several fire certifications in good standing.

Staff recommends approval pending his passing the Instructor Reciprocity test.

Eric Gentry made a motion to approve staff recommendation. Chris Johnson seconded. Motion passed.

2. Patrick Fisher requested a variance for Safety Officer. He completed the Safety Officer test in 2007, but was denied due to not having Fire Officer I. He completed Fire Officer I in 2014 and is requesting his Safety Officer certification.

Staff recommends that he pass the state written/practical testing for certification.

Patrick spoke about his experience in the fire service, is currently a firefighter at Scott Twp., and is the training officer at his volunteer dept. He has taken one certification class a year for the last 7 years. He continues with his education and as Fire Chief, he does the work of the Safety Officer. Patrick talked about the number of runs every year he was required to act as Safety Officer and has fulfilled these duties.

Joe Romero made a motion to approve staff recommendation. Tom Hanify seconded. Hand vote was called for; 1 abstention, 3 nays, 6 aye. Motion passed.

3. Travis Theurer requested Instructor II/III based on his Indiana Teachers license. He has referenced passed Board minutes where this has been granted.

Staff recommends denial. After reviewing the requirements for Instructor III, we do not believe that all skills for Instructor III are required as a licensed teacher.

Mr Theurer requested to withdraw his request at this time.

4. Gregg Moore, Richmond Area Career Center requested a variance from 655 IAC 1-1-12(e) to allow following students, each of whom is currently 16 years of age, and juniors, to take the written and practical testing for Mandatory, Firefighter I, Firefighter II, and Hazmat Operation prior to taking the practical skills examinations, with the variance to be valid until their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday and a variance from 655 IAC 1-1-12(h) to allow the following students to take the practical skill exam for Mandatory, Firefighter I/II, Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Hazmat operations at the age of

17 years and 1 week and have their passing score remain valid until their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, with the variance to be valid until their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Dylan Moore, Tanner Coyle, Alexander Bradburn, Talon Johnson, Aaron Mathews, Christopher Fonseca, Sam Weller, Derek Williams, Jacob Ellison, Skylar Halcomb, Matthew Hickey, Charles Steele, Blake Wentz.

Staff recommends approval.

Chris Johnson made a motion to approve staff recommendation. John Smith seconded. Motion passed.

5. Adam Hurley, Thorncreek Twp. FD, requested a variance from 655 IAC 1-1-12(e) to allow Kohtlin Green, whom currently is 16 years of age and a junior, to take the written examinations for [Mandatory, Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Firefighter I/II, and Hazardous Materials Operations,] prior to taking the practical skills examinations, with the variance to be valid until their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday:

Staff recommends approval

James Greeson asked if this was a FD. When we accommodated the career centers, we talked about the Fire Dept that would want to do this. John Buckman stated that after the discussion 1 year ago, this is the first time a FD has asked for this. We will make sure that the fire chief understands the liability for testing students under age 18 in hazardous events. If the fire chief wants to comply with this, they are taking on the liability. This is the first time we have been asked to approve this. James Greeson stated that without knowing the situation, I suggest we table this until we have more information. Career Centers have an exception to using machinery, if the fire Dept is partnering with a career center, then they are ok, but the Board will not be accepting the liability for this issue.

Chris Johnson wants to know what the FD tells John or does not tell John that would satisfy the Board. Greg Wyant states that all John is going to do is verify that they understand the rules and the liability is on them. Chris Johnson asked what does he needs to say to satisfy the question. Chris just wants to know that John realizes what yes means.

John stated that he would ask what type of props is being used, instructor ratio, all skills can be done, do you have the equipment, do you have

access to the props needed to complete skills. I will create a check list that they will have to complete and submit to the Board with the variance request.

John Morphy stated that this list would be very helpful to the volunteer FD so that we know what needs to be done

Tom Hanify made a motion to table this request at this time. John Buckman will contact Mr. Hurley and find out more information on liability and oversight of the class. James Greeson seconded. Motion passed.

6. Adam Hurley, Thorncreek Twp. FD requested a variance from 655 IAC 1-1-12(h) to allow the following students to take the practical skills examinations for [Mandatory, Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Firefighter I/II, and Hazardous Materials Operations] at the age of 17 years and 1 week and have their passing score remain valid until their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, with the variance to be valid until their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday: Nick Gessner and Logan Geiger

Staff recommends approval.

Tom Hanify made a motion to table this request at this time. John Buckman will contact Mr. Hurley and find out more information on liability and oversight of the class. James Greeson seconded. Motion passed.

7. The following DNR Officers requested a variance for Rope Rescue ops/tech and Swift Water Rescue ops/tech. They are Swift Water instructors and all have Technical Rescue Awareness levels. Keith Dinn is present for any questions.

Paul Axton, Nicole Baumann, John Boyd, Zach Carson Keith Dinn, John Neargardner and Darren Reed.

Staff recommends that the state skills be completed. John Buckman is going to speak to the Indiana Swift Water Academy.

Keith Dinn spoke about the combined experience, they teach these classes continually at the swift water academy, and they have completed the rope testing and now have that certification. They are asking for the swift water certifications. We can have the skills signed off on, but we teach this every year and we have over 100 hours a year of teaching this subject.

John Buckman stated that he and the Marshal talked to them prior to the meeting. John explained to them that he needs signatures on the documents because we need proof that the JPR's have been completed. Without the signature, there is nothing to validate the completion of skills.

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve this pending the practicals skills for swift water are completed and documentation submitted. James Greeson seconded. Motion passed.

8. Bryan Baker is asking for an extension of the 2 years renewal for Instructor I. He is requesting an extension until June 1, 2015. He was certified in 2012, deployed to Afghanistan in 2013 through 2014, certification expired March 2015, and has not been able to get the required hours for renewal. He is still in the military. He is attempting to get the required hours; he wants to take the Instructor II/III course coming up at White River FD.

EMS allows 2 years after the individual returns from active duty. He would start brand new when he returns. His expiration date would be 2 years from the date he returns. They would have to submit DD 214, and the date would start the first day of the next month.

James Greeson made a motion to extend to June 1, 2015 to get his required hours for Instructor I. Rob Lund seconded. Motion passed.

9. Andrew Giordano, Munster FD is asking for a variance for Fire Inspector I. He has completed a class. He has also submitted forms that he used during the skills portion.

Staff recommends denial. We have no record of him completing the state skills at this time.

James Greeson made a motion to deny the request. Skills need to be completed. Eric Gentry seconded. Motion passed.

10. Ed O'Farrell asking for oral testing for Casey Lyman.

The school phycologist is not able to sign the ADA form that the state has on the web site. It calls for a physician's signature and she is not a physician. We can revise. The Board wants the most appropriate person that is certified and qualified diagnose this person.

Jonathan Whitham stated that you need a spot for a medical professional signature. Problem is the definition of medical professional.

Chris Johnson: it is the schools clinical phycologist that has diagnosed him.

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve the request for oral testing for Casey Lyman for the Mandatory, hazmat awareness, hazmat operations, technical rescue awareness and Firefighter I/II. Chief O'Farrell is going to work with John Buckman to work out the exact procedure to do this.

Burke Jones seconded. Motion passed. Staff will revise the ADA form on the web site and remove the physician signature requirement.

D. James Greeson, State Fire Marshal report;

Thank you Wabash Twp. for hosting us.

Monday and Tuesday of next week will be classes and hands on. FDIC opening ceremony is April 23rd and I look forward to seeing you there.

You have the chance to meet firefighters from around the world.

House Bill 1182, Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy Training System will be signed on the stage by Gov. Pence on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the FDIC. This is a huge step for the firefighters in Indiana. The current fire training system around the state will continue at those sites forever. There is no plan to disband the current training. There is a plan to develop additional training, Leadership training; cadet training for career departments; that is long term planning, no brick and mortar identified with this plan. The educational facilities are wanting involved in this. EMS, EMA, tele communicators, is all going to be involved in this training. The Fire Alliance and John Buckman have been involved and pushing for this.

E Joe Romero, Director of Training report;

As Marshal Greeson was saying we are looking to partnership with University's throughout the state. We are looking at planning workshops at the district levels. We will be field testing some of this stuff from July through Sept. John Buckman stated that this training is not firefighter I/II training. This is the technical rescue, trench rescue, etc. This is about needs, not wants. Joe explained that they need information that they can take to the state budget agency and get funding for the needed training.

F. John Buckman, Fire Training Report;

1. Firefighter I chapter testing

This is not really ready for discussion yet. We are still trying to work on the skills portion of this.

2. Disciplinary action report

We do not have a lot of issues with instructors, but there is a peer group that issues go to, and they make the decision of what should be done when there is a violation. This group is made up of 1 from the IVFA; 1 from the Union, one from the Fire Chief Association and 1 from the department of the individual fire dept. The last issue, they suspended the certification but they also made a condition of getting certification back that the individual pass the reciprocity test. Chris Johnson made the comment that this should not go on forever. The individual should not be allowed to continue to violate board rules.

3. Hazmat Technician understood you have HMA/HMO

The Board, back in 2009 or 2010 made the statement that if you had the Master Hazardous Material Technician certification or if you received Hazardous Material Technician prior to 2002, it is understood that you have hazmat awareness and operations. This issue mainly affects the career firefighter that is going to promotion. We cannot give the certification because they have not tested for it and the standard is different. We propose that we put a statement on the web page explaining this so that everyone knows about this. If they want the actual hard copy certification for it, they would be required to take the written exam. We would count their experience as the skills, but they would need to pass the written exam.

Eric Gentry made a motion that if you were certified at the Technician level prior to the existence of Hazmat awareness and operations, it is understood that you have met the prerequisite for awareness and operations. Joe Romero seconded. Motion passed.

4. Testing alternatives

This breaks down the definition of types of testing

1) Attend a traditional class

- 2) Attend a blended; part actual class and part on line courses
- 3) Attend a complete online course
- 4) Challenge- no coaching
- 5) Self-study

All require a 30 day application for course number.

5. Ivy Tech testing

Ivy Tech tests are out of date. It takes a several months for new tests to work through all locations. We are working now on setting up Ivy Tech using the acadis system just like EMS. Very few students are passing these old tests and it is not fair that this is happening. We would like to suspend all Ivy Tech testing until we can get the acadis system up and running. Right now we have very few students using Ivy Tech. Our on line testing has increased to approximately 70% but Ivy Tech is still an option for those that want it. There are very few students that use Ivy Tech any more. On a monthly basis, we have maybe 15 students go to them for testing.

6. Non Rule Policies

7. Separating Instructor II/III

Jim Campbell has put in a suggestion on Beta testing and separating Instructor II/III. Instructor II would still expire in 2 years and would still require recertification just like it does now. They would be allowed to do everything under the Board rules that an Instructor II/III is allowed to do. We will not make separate certifications, and you will not get a certification stating that you have Instructor III. As long as you remain current with the instructor II, then at any time, you can go back and complete the III module. At that point you will get the instructor II/III certification. This is one way to get the separation that everyone wants.

Marshal Greeson stated that we have the ability to do emergency rule rewrite, but his covers only updating the standard. Part of this rule states that we can change it if it reals hardship, but this still takes months to get this done.

The individuals that currently have Instructor II/III, they will keep that certification as long as they keep renewing it. You would not have to hold Instructor II for any length of time before you can start Instructor III if you wanted to. You do not ever have to go to Instructor III if you do not want



to. You would not get a certification for Instructor II because the state does not have that certification. This can be in place until we get the rule change. At that time, those that have completed the requirements for Instructor II would get a certification. Steve Anderson volunteered to help with the group to do this.

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve the Beta testing for separation of Instructor II and Instructor III. At 6 months submit a report to the Board and a decision will be made at that time if this should continue. Burke Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed. There is no adverse economic impact.

At the last meeting, an Instructor I certification was given to Bryan Weaver. Mr. Weaver does not have Firefighter I/II and therefore does not meet the prerequisite for the certification. Ms. Goble suggested that he be allowed to have 90 days to get his Firefighter I/II and then give a variance for the 1 year. His job might depend on this certification. The certification was given based on his Indiana teacher's license.

Rick Compton was lead instructor, lead evaluator for the last instructor that did not have the certifications for teaching.

Greg stated that this was not on the agenda and he feels that Mr. Weaver should have the chance to provide information on this issue before any actions are taken. Tom Hanify stated that he did not have a problem if he was teaching under the oversight of an instructor. This cannot be addressed at this time because this is not on the agenda.

The Board is going to reconsider his variance at the June meeting.

Fire Engineering curriculum: the state bought this for the district training. They can share the disks but they CANNOT be copied. We have been notified that districts have now handed this out and twice, this has been copied. This is a copy right violation. Fire Engineering is looking into this and action will be taken against the Dept that have copied this. Once you copy this disk, it becomes corrupted. The cost of the curriculum is \$500. Someone has converted the instructor key to a key that can last 1 year. This is a copy right infringement. This is a \$25 key and the fine for copy right can be in the \$1000's.

Districts have books, every district can loan the books out. They can share the disk, but you cannot copy the disk.

8. Letter from Dave Decker, they are working on the list of students that will be taking tests out of order.
- G. Administrative proceedings;
1. Status of John Cline appeal,  
Briefs are due this week, April 15, and the judge will come up with a non-final order for review by the Board.
  2. Jerry Martin, Non-Final Order of Dismissal, Administrative Cause No. 14-01  
Burke Jones made a motion to affirm the Judge's decision. Chris Johnson seconded. Motion passed.
- H Request for reciprocity;  
No report at this time.
- I. Administrative appeal requests;
1. Derek Rollins is appealing the decision to suspend his Instructor certification  
Burke Jones made a motion to send to Judge. Chris Johnson seconded. Motion passed.  
Jonathan Whitham stated that these do not actually have to go to the Board. This delays the process. A notice could be given to the Board but the paperwork can go directly to legal so there is no delay in the processing of the request providing it was filed on a timely basis.  
Tom Hanify made a motion to send appeals directly to the legal division and a memo on the agenda letting the Board know that an appeal was filed. Chris Johnson seconded Motion passed.
- J Old business;  
ADA form will be revised, removing the required physician's signature
- K. New business;
- L Meeting adjourned 8:20pm

NEXT MEETING:

June 11, 2015 9 AM (EDT)  
Horseshoe Southern Indiana Hotel  
Bossier City Room  
11999 Casino Center Dr. SE  
Elizabeth IN 47117  
866-676-7463